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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/504,740	02/16/2000	Takeo Nishijima	450100-02317	6292

20999 7590 04/23/2003

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EXAMINER

ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/504,740

Applicant(s)
Nishijima et al

Examiner
Christopher O. Onuaku

Art Unit
2615



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2615

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 13-5,7,8,10,11,13,14&16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kono et al (US 5,187,589).

Regarding claim 1, Kono et al disclose a recording/reproducing apparatus for television image including simultaneous recording/reproducing of multiple TV signals, comprising:

a) composite video image generating means for generating reduced video images by reducing each of a plurality of video images supplied and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images (see Fig.3,5,6&16, the mixing/separating circuit 11; col.6, line 64 to col.7, line 21; col.15, line 62 to col.16, line 6);

b) additional information generating means for generating additional information for each of the supplied video images (see Fig.6, identification signal generating circuit 25; col.9, lines 13-39);

c) recording means for recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium in such a manner of maintaining the

Art Unit: 2615

correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information (see Fig. 5&6, recording medium 8; col.9, lines 13-62).

Regarding claim 3, Kono discloses wherein the predetermined recording medium is a tape-shaped recording medium capable of recording digital video information (see col.9, lines 52-62 and col.7, lines 37-46).

Regarding claim 4, Kono discloses wherein the recording means records the composite video image and the additional information onto the same recording medium (see col.9, lines 13-62).

Regarding claim 5, Kono discloses wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from the video supply sources in a time division manner (see switches 14&15; col.7, lines 24-36).

Regarding claim 7, Kono discloses wherein the supplied video images are video images outputted from a plurality of cameras (see col.23, line 66 to col.24, line 10).

Art Unit: 2615

Regarding claim 8, Kono discloses wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from the video cameras in a time division manner (switches 14&15; col.7, lines 24-36 and col.23, line 66 to col.24, line 10).

Regarding claim 10, the claimed limitations of claim 10 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 11, the claimed limitations of claim 11 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 13, the claimed limitations of claim 13 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 3 above.

Regarding claim 14, the claimed limitations of claim 14 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 16, the claimed limitations of claim 16 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 7 above.

Art Unit: 2615

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2&12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kono et al in view of Nishijima (US 5,915,069).

Regarding claim 2, as discussed in claim 1 above, Kono discloses generating a composite image of reduced images and recording the composite image. Kono fails to explicitly disclose wherein the composite video image generating means performs a predetermined image compression to a video image obtained by combining the reduced video images and outputs the compressed video image as a composite video image.

However Nishijima teaches a video surveillance system which records video signals that are compressed at a selectively controlled compression ratio on a record medium, comprising compressor 3a (Fig.1; col.3, line 25 to col.4, line 11). It would have been obvious to modify Kono by adding a compressing means to Kono, as taught by Nishijima, in order to facilitate compressing captured image signals as desired. With Kono modified with Nishijima, it would have obvious to compress any desired image, including the composite image, in order to compress the composite image.

Art Unit: 2615

Regarding claim 12, the claimed limitations of claim 12 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 2 above.

5. Claims 6&9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kono et al in view of Yamamoto (US 5,469,270).

Regarding claim 6, Kono fails to explicitly disclose wherein the additional information includes at least one of supply source information indicative of each of supply sources of the supplied video images, recording data and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of the arrangement and the maximum number of reduced video images in the composite video image, recording apparatus identification information for identifying the video recording apparatus used for recording, and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

Yamamoto teaches a video editing apparatus for controlling a plurality of video reproducing apparatuses each having a video signal recorded on a recording medium such as a tape comprising a list setting portion for setting the edit decision list showing identification data of recording media which are to be used for a video edit (see Abstract).

It would have been obvious to modify Kono by realizing Kono with the means to identify recording media, as taught by Yamamoto, since it is well known that adding an identification data

Art Unit: 2615

to a recording medium, for example, provides the desirable advantage of easily identifying the recording medium.

Regarding claim 9, the claimed limitations of claim 9 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

Regarding claim 15, the claimed limitations of claim 15 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

Regarding claim 17, the claimed limitations of claim 17 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kirsten (US 6,011,901) teach the recording and recovery of video and other data from single or multiple monitored sites including industrial plants, banks, super-markets and other commercial and institutional properties.

Art Unit: 2615

Bellman, Jr. et al (US 4,831,438) teach an electronic surveillance system which includes a plurality of audio and video sensors that are selectively activated from a remote command and control station.

Choi et al (US 6,519,416) teach systems combining magnetic recording/reproducing apparatuses with video cameras, the systems suited for photo recording without an attending camera operator or photographer.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from this examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is (703) 308-7555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B. Christensen, can be reached on (703) 308-9644.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

and (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Art Unit: 2615

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be
directed to Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.


COO

4/19/03


THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER